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Intelligence—V

Broader Control Set-Up Is Held Need, With a 'Watch-Dog' Unit for Congress

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The enlargement of present intelligence activities of the Government and the establishment of a Congressional "watch-dog" committee to study and inspect those activities continuously are two of the major reforms required in the reorganization and modernization of our intelligence procedures.

The first suggestion—enlargement of our intelligence activities—already has received some attention from Allen Dulles, chairman of a three-man group which has been surveying our intelligence agencies. Mr. Dulles is the brother of John Foster Dulles, who is generally regarded as the next Secretary of State if Governor Dewey should be elected to the Presidency. The need for enlargement of some of our post-war concepts of intelligence was stressed by John Foster Dulles recently in a speech to the Bond Club of New York.

Mr. Dulles, in his address, recommended "an organization dedicated to the task of nonmilitary defense." Such an organization, he held, should expose Communist and other subversive plottings, "tell adequately through radio and press the story of what is happening," protect "the free press" of other countries by opportunity to "get print paper"; provide "asylum for those menaced by Communist terrorism," and help leaders-in-exile of foreign countries overrun by communism "to go on working for freedom."

Joint Organizations Mooted

John Foster Dulles did not spell out the details of his proposal, but seemed to lump together the functions now conducted by the State Department's "Voice of America," the FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency. Such an organization as he described would presumably conduct some of the same activities carried on by the Office of Strategic Services during the war, plus political warfare and psychological warfare, including the utilization of "black radio" or clandestine stations operating perhaps behind the "iron curtain." In wartime other activities, including sabotage, would be included in its scope.

No single organization of government now has any such all-embracing charter as this, but the CIA could conduct some of the activities suggested, particularly "black radio" and the encouragement of anti-Communist minorities. There is some feeling that the CIA has not hitherto approached this phase of its work with broad enough viewpoint. Allen Dulles' survey already has resulted in a re-

emphasis of these "secret operations," but it seems likely that most of these will be conducted by the CIA. No such inclusive overall organization as that apparently suggested by John Foster Dulles is probable, at least in the immediate future.

Early Wartime Merger Failed

A merger of psychological warfare and intelligence activities was tried in the early days of the war, but did not work out, and there was a resultant split into the Office of War Information and the Office of Strategic Services. The State Department must also have a major voice in "political warfare" and in dealings with leaders-in-exile. It does not seem possible, therefore, to centralize all such operations in a single department or agency, nor is it desirable. From the Congressional and public point of view such an organization would represent too great a grant of power.

Nevertheless the need for a greater emphasis on "secret operations" as well as on "secret intelligence" is now obvious, and some agencies of government must perform all the functions mentioned by John Foster Dulles as well as other functions to which he did not allude. The CIA is the place for many of them but not for all.

"Watch-Dog" Group Suggested

Because of the importance to national security of secret intelligence and secret operations, because of our past errors in intelligence, and particularly because the grants of power given to intelligence agencies must be major and secret, a Congressional committee to act as a discreet "watch-dog" over all our intelligence agencies—particularly the CIA—ought to be established. It ought to be composed of men of great discretion and thorough reliability, close-mouthed men able to keep secrets. It should be composed of representatives of both parties; such a committee must be nonpartisan, for above all, intelligence must be kept out of politics. It should have the same relationship to the CIA and other intelligence agencies that the Senate House Atomic Energy Committee has to the United States Atomic Energy Commission. Such a group, to act as a sympathetic advocate for our intelligence agencies and at the same time as a gadfly to those agencies and a check-rein upon undue power, would serve a highly useful purpose in the atomic age in establishing and maintaining a sound intelligence system—the first line of defense.